

TALENT HISTORICAL SOCIETY NEWSLETTER

MARCH, 1999

SPECIAL EXHIBIT EDITION

TREASURES OF OREGON SHOW OPENS MARCH 14

The Oregon Historical Society traveling exhibit opens at the Medford Mall on March 14. The 48 foot long mobile exhibit will be located near the corner of McAndrews and Riverside in the mall parking lot.

Featured exhibits will number more than 150 artifacts taken from the extensive collection of the Oregon Historical Society collection. Visitors to the displays will be able to see the famous 10,000 year old sagebrush sandals found in Eastern Oregon, a branding iron owned by Captain Meriwether Lewis, a sea chest belonging to Capt. Robert Gray--discoverer of the Columbia River in 1782, and a draft of the Oregon Constitution written by Judge Matthew Deady in 1857. Other displays will include a typewriter that belonged to suffragist Abigail Scott Duniway, stone sculptures from the mid-Columbia area, Native American dance aprons, and ancient Columbia River petroglyphs.

The rest of the 155 artifacts will display pioneer diaries, manuscripts, maps, photographs, books and paintings. A special Hands on Treasure Chest will be available for young children and will include a beaver pelt, baby-size moccasins, and a spyglass among other items.

The AT&T Treasures of Oregon exhibit will tour 50 Oregon communities during the rest of the year. The exhibit will be in Medford from March 14 through March 16, open 10:00 a. m. to 6:00 p.m. coming to Medford from Grants Pass. The exhibit will return to the Rogue River valley October 18 to 20 when it will be in Ashland, and at Jacksonville from October 22 to 24.

TALENT WOMEN'S HISTORY EXHIBIT OPENS AT MUSEUM

A new exhibit at the Talent Historical Society Museum is now open for viewing. Featuring the women of Talent and honoring Women's History Month, the display features a variety of objects made by or commemorating Talent women. The exhibit can be seen anytime the Museum is open.

Among the items on display are books written by area women authors Yvonne Reynolds, Dorothy Vore, Sandra Schofield, and Sharon Doubiago. Artwork displays feature area potters Margaret Hamilton, Bonnie Morgan and Audrey Casebeer; as well as prints by Regina Dorland Robinson. Classic figurines displaying the stylish costumes worn by American women are on display with a figure for every quarter century courtesy of the Talent Federated Women's Club.

A poster display of the life and creative talent of Vetabelle Phillips Carter, one of the inventors of the stop-light who spent her childhood summers on her grandfather's ranch up Anderson Creek is also featured. To check the times the Museum is open in the Talent Community Building (206 E. Main), call 512-8838.

ANGELE TAPPED TO HEAD SOCIETY

In mid-January, after sifting through fifteen applications, and hearing interviews, the THS Board search committee selected Dr. Marian Angele the new museum director, replacing Holly Hertel who resigned to work for the SOU Foundation. Dr. Angele holds a Ph. D. in

Comparative Literature from the U. of Oregon, having earned a BA in Russian at the U. of Colorado, and an MA in Slavic Languages from the U. of California, Berkeley. A native Oregonian from Lake Co., she has taught at the U. of Oregon, Van derbilt U. in Nashville, TN, and at Southern Oregon U. In addition to her academic preparation, Dr. Angele brings a wide variety of business and foundation experience to the directorship. She has worked for a polling organization linked to the Gallup Poll, for the Oregon Shakespeare Festival in financial development and for the Bear Creek Corp. While in Colorado, Dr. Angele worked for the Sundstrand Corp.

She is confronted with a range of tasks as the new museum director, including maintaining, developing, evaluating, and maintaining the Talent Historical Society, its Museum, and programs. Dr. Angele will supervise the Society staff and its volunteers. "I find the opportunities to make the history of Talent relevant and known to the residents of the area challenging," she said. "With so many new residents of the area, it is vitally important that they connect with the community--and history helps do that!"

QUEST ESSAY: "John Beeson's Ghost" by Tom Doty

FIRST I NEED TO TELL YOU that I believe that there are some ghosts out there who carry wisdom we ought to pay attention to. I believe this because I met such a ghost one night on the hilltop in Stearn's Cemetery near Talent. It was the ghost of John Beeson and we sat by his grave and we talked all night about the Rogue River Indian wars of the 1850s. He had come into the Rogue Valley in the midst of a series of battles, and he did a very unpopular thing among the whites: he stood up for the rights of Indians. Imagine that.

Beeson's ghost settled onto a stump. Shadows of madrones and oaks and pines branched overhead. The living room lights of homes were flickering flames down the valley. The air was still and the night was dark. His voice began like an early sunrise, faint light at first, then bright as a summer day and full of the smell of trees. "Some of them won't believe you," he said. "And there are some who didn't believe me about the Indians in this valley because they didn't understand them. And there are some who won't believe you when you tell them we had this little talk. But that's no reason not to tell the story.

"They didn't believe me when I told them Indians were hunted like deer, about the lynchings in Jacksonville, that Indian women begging for food were shot on sight. They didn't believe such atrocities could occur in this lovely Rogue Valley, a valley that was a picture more beautiful than a painter could portray, or even imagine. They didn't even believe me when I told them that love is the universal cure for the social wrongs that curse the world. And their disbelief followed me right to this grave. But the ones who did the killings knew. They threatened to kill me, my wife, my son. They would have blamed it on the Indians, and some folks would have believed them."

Beeson's ghost paused. Sunlight started growing in the east. I could read the words on his gravestone: "John Beeson. Died 1889. A Pioneer and a man of Peace." When I glanced back to the stump where his shape had been, there were only shadows. I called after him, "Was it you who said about the Indians that this nation was born in genocide and murder?"

"No. . . No. . .," he said. "That was Martin Luther King, Jr. a hundred years later. We tell the same story. Now it is your turn to tell story. And get some help, you'll need it. And remember about love. . . ." The air smelled like trees. The rising sun carried the ghosts of his words down the valley where they settled over the lights of homes where people were starting to wake up. Some ghosts carry wisdom we ought to pay attention to.

And that is the story--the true story--of John Beeson's Ghost. **Tom Doty, Storyteller**

Talent Historical Society

Presents

In celebration of Women's History Month - March
A potluck brunch program
honoring women of the Talent Area
both past & present

Those Being Honored Include:

*Mae Baldwin
RoseMary Beveridge
Alice Burnette
Marla Cates
Jannine Foucault
Genevieve Holdridge
Betty Smith
Hulda Sommer
Marian Telerski
and others...*



Dorland Robinson
1891 - 1917

Saturday,
March 20, 1999
Brunch 10 am
Program 11 am – 1 pm
Talent Community Hall
206 East Main Street
Handicapped access in back

Guest Speakers Include:

Rosemary Dunn Dalton of the Dunn House

Sue Waldron of the Southern Oregon Historical Society
presentation on artist, Dorland Robinson

Carolyn Harris of the Rogue Valley Women's Alliance

Yvonne Reynolds of the Talent Historical Society
presentation on singer, Suzanne Lee Price

ADMISSION IS FREE

Door prizes kindly provided by local merchants!

RSVP's encouraged !!!

For more information contact: Talent Historical Society 512-8838

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